

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 01153

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, US, CA
SUBJECT: "SOVIET DIPLOMAT CHARGES CANADA HATE CAMPAIGN"

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AN ARTICLE UNDER THE ABOVE TITLE
PUBLISHED ON FRONT PAGE OF MARCH 7 "OTTAWA JOURNAL".
2. BEGIN TEXT: A SENIOR SOVIET DIPLOMAT HAS ACCUSED
THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT OF WAGING A "HATE CAMPAIGN" FOR
INTERNAL POLITICAL REASONS IN OUSTING 13 SOVIET EMBASSY
PERSONNEL.
3. COUNSELLOR VICTOR MIKHEEV COMPARED THE CAMPAIGN WITH
THE "HATE WEEK" ORDERED BY BIG BROTHER IN GEORGE ORWELL'S
NOVEL 1984.
4. HE MADE HIS REMARKS TO "THE JOURNAL" IN RESPONSE TO A
QUESTION OF WHETHER THE SOVIETS HAD REPLACED THE STAFF
EXPELLED LAST MONTH FOR SPYING.
5. ELEVEN SOVIETS WERE ORDERED OUT OF THE COUNTRY AFTER
THEY WERE ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN PART OF A CLOAK-AND-DAGGER
PLOT TO INFILTRATE THE RCMP. TWO OTHER EMBASSY PERSONNEL,
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WHO HAD ALREADY LEFT CANADA, WERE TOLD NEVER TO RETURN.

6. NONE OF THE EXPELLED PERSONNEL HAS BEEN REPLACED YET,
MIKHEEV SAID. THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SAYS IT
HAS NO OBJECTION TO THEIR BEING REPLACED BY PERSONS WITH
ACCEPTABLE CREDENTIALS.

7. MIKHEEV SAID THE MAJOR RESULT OF THE MASS EXPULSIONS WAS "MORAL DAMAGE" TO CANADA. "IT WILL GO INTO THE HISTORY BOOKS AND STAY FOREVER. PEOPLE WILL WONDER WHAT WAS WRONG THAT THEY NEEDED SUCH A HATE CAMPAIGN," HE SAID.

8. HE ADDED: "THESE THINGS ARE NEVER DONE WITHOUT INTERNAL REASONS." THE PURPOSE IS TO "STRENGTHEN THE REGIME," ACCORDING TO MIKHEEV. "EVEN IF THEY DON'T REALIZE IT, THAT'S USUALLY THE REASON. WE DON'T FEEL THE (CANADIAN) GOVERNMENT HAS VERY MUCH AGAINST US. IT WAS JUST THEIR INTERNAL PROBLEMS WHICH MADE THEM EXPLODE."

9. CONSERVATIVE MP TOM COSSITT HAS CHARGED ALMOST HALF THE SOVIET EMBASSY STAFF ARE SPIES.

10. SUCH ALLEGATIONS, BY COSSITT AND OTHER OPPOSITION MPS, MAY BE THE TRIGGER FOR ACTION AGAINST SOVIET EMBASSY PERSONNEL BUT THEY ARE NOT THE REASON FOR IT, MIKHEEV SAID.

11. BIG BROTHER ORDERED A HATE WEEK, THE SOVIET OFFICIAL SAID, "TO WASH BRAINS AND TO HAVE NO MORE DISSIDENTS." AND REFERRING TO THE RECENT EXPULSIONS, HE ADDED: "HATE WEEK WAS HERE."

12. CANADA IS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, MIKHEEV
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SAID, THAT PUTS A CEILING ON THE NUMBER OF DIPLOMATS AN EMBASSY CAN HAVE. HE SAID HE BELIEVED THE LAST TO DO THIS WAS "HITLER'S GERMANY".

13. THE CEILING IS 64 DIPLOMATS AND SUPPORT STAFF. THE SOVIETS ARE NOW MAKING DO WITH ABOUT 50.

14. AMONG THOSE EXPELLED, MIKHEEV SAID, "WAS A DOORMAN WHO DOESN'T SPEAK ENGLISH AND NEVER LEFT THE EMBASSY. SO NOW WE HAVE NO DOORMAN."

15. ASKED WHETHER THE EXPELLED STAFF WOULD BE REPLACED, MIKHEEV REPLIED: "I HOPE SO. HOW CAN WE WORK OTHERWISE?" END TEXT.

16. COMMENT: THIS OUTBURST BY MIKHEEV (THE SOVIET PRESS COUNSELOR), WHICH WAS PRESUMABLY MADE ON INSTRUCTIONS, IS CERTAINLY MUCH HARSHER IN TONE THAN TASS STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 10 (MOSCOW 2065) AND IT SEEMS TO CONFLICT WITH SERIES OF FRIENDLY SIGNALS BY SOVIETS AS DESCRIBED IN MOSCOW 2428. IN ANY EVENT, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHAT SOVIETS HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH BY THESE REMARKS,

PARTICULARLY SUCH PHRASES AS "HATE WEEK" AND "HITLER'S
GERMANY", EXCEPT TO IRRITATE CANADIANS. CERTAINLY, GOC
IS NOT GOING TO BE INTIMIDATED BY THIS KIND OF ATTACK.
ENDERS

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